

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The present application is a continuation-in-part application of parent application Serial No. 10/132,601 filed on April 25, 2002 and entitled MATTRESS MADE OF LATEX FOAM INTEGRATING A STRUCTURE OF SPRINGS SACKED OR HELD IN OTHER SUPPORTING MATERIAL (hereinafter "the parent application"). On August 28, 2003, an Office Action relating to the parent application was mailed.

The Office Action mailed in the parent application rejected various claims as either anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,855,653 to Stalter et al. (hereinafter "Stalter") or as obvious over Stalter in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,811,439 to Siegel et al (hereinafter "Siegel"). In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are allowable over Stalter and Siegel, whether these references are considered individually or in combination.

Claim 1 relates to "[a] resilient mattress, comprising: a latex foam body; and a plurality of resilient units spaced within the latex foam body **such that portions of the latex foam body are arranged between adjacent resilient units to firmly maintain the resilient units within the latex foam body**, each resilient unit including a coiled spring individually enclosed within a respective envelope impermeable to the latex foam body." (emphasis added).

Stalter discloses a method of making a mattress, in which a plurality of springs are collectively contained within a single envelope 12. As characterized, the fabric envelope 12 reinforces the foam and serves as a barrier to prevent foam from filling the cavities in and around the coil springs. (Stalter, col. 1, lines 48-51). Siegel relates to a method of manufacturing a foamed inner-spring unit.

Claim 1 recites that "portions of the latex foam body are arranged between adjacent resilient units." In this manner the resilient units are firmly maintained in place within the latex foam body. Stalter, in contrast, provides a single envelope within which all of the springs are collectively arranged. The primary purpose of the envelope is to prevent foam from filling the cavities around the springs. In this manner, Stalter does not disclose, and in fact teaches away from, a critical feature of claim 1. Furthermore, any reading of Siegel makes clear that this reference fails to cure the critical deficiencies of Stalter as applied against claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over Stalter and Siegel, whether these references are considered individually or in combination. Furthermore, since claims 2-13 ultimately depend from claim 1, since claim 14 recites "A mold for manufacturing the resilient mattress of claim 11," and since claims 15 and 16 ultimately depend from claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over Stalter and Siegel for at least the same reasons.

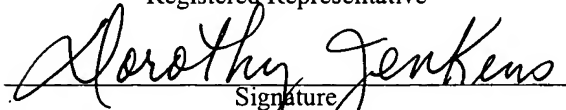
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is therefore earnestly solicited.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail #EV343682931US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 10, 2004

Dorothy Jenkins

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

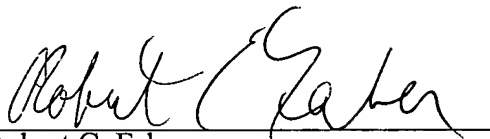


Signature

February 10, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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